



March 27, 2019

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit**

Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

At Grande Ronde Hospital (GRH) our commitment to our community in the form of community benefit is near the top of our mission. We believe reaching outside our walls helps improve the health of our community. We actively seek ways to contribute to the wellness and well-being of our patients and their families. For that reason we oppose the inflexible and prescriptive changes to community benefit as envisioned in HB 3076 and urge you to oppose it as well.

In 2018, we contributed some \$6.2 million via community benefit programs. But the real impact is more than dollar figures, it's in the improvements in health that we drive with that funding. Our community benefit activities are centered on programs and funding that respond to the unique needs of the populations we serve. We conduct community health needs assessments (CHNAs) every three years in which we spend a great deal of time identifying health disparities in our community alongside partner organizations and governmental actors. We then develop implementation strategies, action plans and funding strategies to address the identified needs. We have been committed to Community Benefit for many years.

For example, our 2014 Community Benefit Report highlighted the investment we make into our local nursing students as a teaching hospital. Because many of these nurses are able to obtain practical experience here, they often stay to work after graduation. It is a "grow your own" approach to staffing concerns common to rural hospitals. Our current ICU nurse manager was featured in that report as a recent OHSU nursing school graduate. He is an example of our efforts to support education, and our commitment to employing a skilled and compassionate workforce for generations to come.

In 2016, we began offering free blood screenings to our communities. On three separate Saturdays, our laboratory and community relations staff set up screening sites in three communities in our rural county, offering for free approximately \$200 worth of potentially life-saving screenings for each person. We have continued this service every spring for the past three years and have seen the numbers of participants double. We are preparing to do them again in April. Community Benefit dollars offset the staff time, the draw kits, the readings, the result mailings, the promotion and even the snacks we provide each patient once the blood draws are completed.

In 2017, GRH implemented a new program to combat the drug problem in our community in relation to the unmet health need of Mental Health – Substance Abuse and Addiction as identified in our 2015 CHNA. Our 2018 Community Benefit report highlights the success of the first graduate of our Children

and Recovering Mothers (CHARMS) program. Our Family Birthing Center nurse manager worked to build a collaboration with our local pediatricians, our public health department, the Department of Human Services, our law enforcement, local drug and alcohol addiction counselors and others to develop a program to get expectant mothers off drugs and to support them so they stay off. There are now more mothers in the program and each one of their success stories is a testament to this worthwhile program supported by Community Benefit funding.

Every year, we provide funds for healthy foods through partnerships with our local Farmer's Market in relation to the unmet health need of Preventive Care as identified in our 2015 CHNA. We support local drug-free activities in our schools and those especially targeted to help disadvantaged youth. We partner with our local schools to teach kids about healthy foods and activities, and we work with seniors to help them become more active. These are all examples of benefits to our local community supported by community benefit dollars.

Our community has seen improvements in health care coverage since the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. As a result, the need for charity care has fallen. That's something we applaud, as it means people are accessing the coverage they need at the time that it's needed. We are committed to connecting our community with financial assistance as shown through our hiring of financial assistance counselors in the hospital and our clinics. While charity care has begun to creep up again, we believe that imposing high thresholds for charity care would lead to unintended consequences.

In short, community benefit is a transparent program that is working well in our community. We object to prescriptive policy that could engender changes which do not serve our unique community needs. We urge you to oppose HB 3076 and instead allow hospitals to continue to engage in a collaborative policy process which centers on driving health outcomes.

Thank you for your service. Please reach out with any questions you have about our programs.

Sincerely,



Jeremy P. Davis  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Grande Ronde Hospital

March 27, 2019

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Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit**

Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

In the La Grande Rotary Club we work to improve health in Union County through programs like Drug Free Youth (DFY) where we partner with Grande Ronde Hospital. Our understanding is that the bill before you today would jeopardize that partnership and for that reason we oppose the inflexible and prescriptive changes to community benefits as envisioned in HB 3076.

DFY is a longstanding program designed to encourage middle school age youth to avoid drug use and abuse. It uses a combination of education, alternative activities, and drug screening to accomplish its goals. As a result, youth in a critical period of development where they are often first exposed to the opportunity to begin using drugs are provided multiple incentives to avoid that path.

Grande Ronde Hospital is a critical partner in this program, as their financial support enables the program to perform a yearly random urinalysis on every program participant. Participants, parents, and program advisors all attest and have since the program's inception that this is the most crucial piece of the program as it provides participants a reason for saying no when offered drugs.

In short, we partner with the local hospital's community benefit funding to carry out our mission of caring for the youth in our community, and by extension, the overall health of our community.

Alongside our hospital partners we urge you to oppose HB 3076 and instead allow hospitals to engage in a collaborative policy process which centers on driving health outcomes.

Thank you for your service and please reach out with any questions about our programs.

Sincerely,

Spencer Luke  
DFY program Chair/Liaison  
La Grande Rotary Club

# Community Connection



**Of Northeast Oregon, Inc.**  
Baker, Grant, Union and Wallowa Counties

March 27, 2019

Community Action Agency  
Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)  
Area Agency on Aging (Dist.13)  
Housing Counseling Agency  
Public Transit Provider  
Youth Programs

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit**

Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

At Northeast Oregon Public Transit we work to improve health in Union County through programs like Rides to Wellness, where we partner with Grande Ronde Hospital and other medical providers in Union County. Our understanding is that the bill before you today would jeopardize that partnership and for that reason we oppose the inflexible and prescriptive changes to community benefit as envisioned in HB 3076.

With Rides to Wellness we are able to provide 5,000 rides a year for Union County residents, to their medical appointments. This program is a life line for many residents who would have no other way to access necessary medical care.

We have partnered with the hospital to coordinate acute and planned care access as well as arranging transportation on a daily basis for hospital discharges where the patient would have no means of transporting themselves home (typically because they have arrived at the hospital via ambulance). We have also been lucky enough to partner with the GRH benefit committee to help fund our program in the past.

In short, we partner with the local hospital's community benefit funding to carry out our mission of advocate for and assist senior citizens, children, low-income persons, and persons with disabilities in attaining basic human needs and in becoming more self-sufficient.

Alongside our hospital partners we urge you to oppose HB 3076 and instead allow hospitals to engage in a collaborative policy process which centers on driving health outcomes.

Thank you for your service and please reach out with any questions about our programs.

Sincerely,

Angelic Peters

Public Transit Manager

Northeast Oregon Public Transit



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**Administrative Offices · 2402 Cedar Street · La Grande, Oregon 97850 · PHONE (541) 962-1352**

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House Committee on Health Care  
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**Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit**

Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

At the City of La Grande Parks & Recreation Department we work with our local hospital to improve health in La Grande, Oregon through programs like new playground installations promoting interactive play in neighborhoods as well as day camps and summer programs that engage children, provide healthy snacks, and exercise through play. Grande Ronde Hospital has been overwhelmingly generous in our small community by providing matching funding for projects and donations for programs. Being such a small community, La Grande depends on our local hospital to support our community's health and especially our children.

Our understanding is that the bill before you today would jeopardize that partnership and for that reason we oppose the inflexible and prescriptive changes to community benefit as envisioned in HB 3076.

In short, we partner with the local hospital's community benefit funding to carry out our mission to provide a diverse recreation program that meets the needs of all residents through leadership, activities, and the coordination of resources.

Alongside our hospital partners we urge you to oppose HB 3076 and instead allow hospitals to engage in a collaborative policy process which centers on driving health outcomes.

Thank you for your service and please reach out with any questions about our programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stu Spence", is written over a horizontal line.

Stu Spence, Parks & Recreation Director  
City of La Grande, OR



CARE

Of Union County

1106 K Ave  
La Grande, OR. 97850

March 27, 2019

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House Committee on Health Care  
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**Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit**

Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

At the Union County CARE Program, we work to improve health in the lives of at risk and underserved youth in our rural communities through programs like Spring Break and Summer Camps where we partner with Grande Ronde Hospital. Our understanding is that the bill before you today would jeopardize that partnership and for that reason we oppose the inflexible and prescriptive changes to community benefit as envisioned in HB 3076.

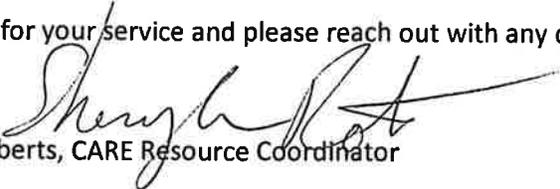
By having the opportunity to partner with the Grande Ronde Hospital for Spring Break and Summer Camps we are able to provide a safe and structured environment during times where many of these children would be unsupervised and lack consistency in daily nutrition. Many, if not all, of the families that CARE is involved with come from a low socioeconomic population and many of those students are not able to attend or participate in activities when a fee is required. CARE families being able to afford a fee based activity is just one of the hurdles; having multiple children that would like to participate, needing extra food when the children are on a break from school, specialized clothing & shoes for certain activities, and living in small outlying communities with limited and/or reliable transportation are a few of the other obstacles. Without this amazing partnership, many CARE kids would not have had the opportunity to enjoy a week long camp filled with safe supervised activities and healthy nutritious meals.

In short, we partner with the local hospital's community benefit funding to carry out our mission of providing a coordinated and integrated social service delivery system which promotes the health, safety, education, and general wellbeing of children and parents.

Alongside our hospital partners we urge you to oppose HB 3076 and instead allow hospitals to engage in a collaborative policy process which centers on driving health outcomes.

Thank you for your service and please reach out with any questions about our programs.

Sincerely,

  
Sheryl Roberts, CARE Resource Coordinator

Union County CARE Program

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CARE is a Union County Wraparound Service

CARE Program  
1106 K Ave  
La Grande OR 97850